Decline in the world Military Expenditure

1436. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been 15 per cent decline in the World Military Expenditure during 1992;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government;

(c) whether Government would review its defence expenditure policy in the light of the information given in the year Book published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Government has seen the report appearing in the Newspapers, based upon the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Press Release indicating that the World Military Expenditure fell by 15 per cent during 1992.

(b) to (d) India's Defence Expenditure has declined over the last few years as a percentage of GDP. Having regard to the changing threat scenario and the availability of resources, the Government takes all appropriate measures to ensure effective defence preparedness.

Spiritual lessons in the army

1437. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start spiritual lessons in the army; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Education in spiritual matters has been in vogue in the Armed Forces for long. The Army Headquarters intend to lay further emphasis on spiritual development of all ranks in the Army. The emphasis would be on the aspects of ethical conduct, God fearing approach to life and fearlessness while dealing with adversaries through the well-established command channels and other traditional units institutions.

Shortage of manpowr in the computer Industry

1438. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the computer industry in the country is likely to face a major manpower shortage of about 2 lakh persons during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The requirements of computer manpower, particularly, in the software sector were recently reviewed in a study conducted with the assistance of World Bank. The study brought out the need to upgrade computer education, particularly, with reference to new technologies like Client/Server Architecture. CASE tools. Object Oriented technology and Relational Data Base technology. A two pronged strategy is being adopted in this context, namely, to up-grade the Master of Computer Application (MCA) syllabus under a Committee set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and to set up a number of Centres of Excellence in the area of Software Engineering under the aegis of the Software Development Board.